



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,568	07/02/2003	Hiroaki Sakai	ERDP007	4528

20178 7590 02/07/2007
EPSON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INC
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT
2580 ORCHARD PARKWAY, SUITE 225
SAN JOSE, CA 95131

EXAMINER

KE. PENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2174

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,568

Applicant(s)

SAKAI, HIROAKI

Examiner

Peng Ke

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. They recite a machine readable medium that is defined in the specification as including a network signal, or any suitable electromagnetic carrier signal including an infrared signal, and these signals are non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takai US Patent 5,874,965 in view of Rogers US Patent 6,133,914

As per claim 1, Takai teaches a machine-readable medium having a program of instructions for directing a machine to execute a directory management program, the directory management program comprising:

A process for a timeline parameter for a specific object; (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56) and

A process for linking the object based on the timeline parameter to a particular cell in a matrix defined by the management parameter and timeline parameter. (see Takai, column 8, lines 50-64; The box is a cell in a matrix)

However, Takai fails to teach setting a directory management parameter and a process for linking based on values of the directory management parameter.

Roger teaches a directory management parameter and a process for linking based on values of the directory management parameter. (see Roger, column 9, lines 25-62;)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Roger's teaching with method of Takai in order to provide users with a hierarchical view of the database.

As per claim 2, it is rejected with the same rationale as claim 1. Supra.

As per claim 3, Takai and Roger teach the method of claim 2. Takai further teaches the object display program further comprising:

A process for sequentially displaying multiple object having the same management parameter based on the relative magnitude of the time line parameter value of each object. (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56)

As per claim 4, Takai and Roger teach the method of claim 2. Takai further teaches the object display program further comprising:

A process for linking and displaying an object in a cell of the directory matrix with a scale different from the scale of the timeline parameter. (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56)

As per claim 6, Takai teaches a machines-readable medium having a program of instruction for directing a machine to execute an object display program, the object display program comprising:

Art Unit: 2174

A process for setting the values of multidimensional parameter for a specific object; (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56) and

A Process for displaying the object linked to a particular cell of a matrix defined by the multidimensional parameter based on the multidimensional parameter setting of the object (see Takai, column 8, lines 50-64; The box is a cell in a matrix)

However, Takai fails to teach a directory setting

Roger teaches a directory setting. (see Roger, column 9, lines 25-62;)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Roger's teaching with method of Takai in order to provide users with a hierarchical view of the database.

As per claim 7, Takai and Roger teach the method of claim 6. Takai further teaches the object display program further comprising:

A process for receiving an open command for the multiple object displayed as a single icon; (see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50) and

A process for opening and displaying the multiple objects based on the open command. (see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50)

As per claim 8, Takai and Roger teach the method of claim 7. Takai further teaches the object display program further comprising:

A process for receiving an open command for the multiple objects displayed as a single icon; (see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50) and

A process for opening and displaying the multiple objects based on the open command. (see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50)

As per claim 9, it is of the same scope as claim 6. Supra.

As per claim 10, Takai and Roger teach a machines readable medium as described in claim 9. Takai further teaches the program comprising:

A process for storing multiple objects linked to a particular cell of the directory object.
(see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56)

As per claim 11, Takai and Roger teach a machines readable medium as described in claim 9. Takai further teaches the program comprising:

A process for defining a correlation between multiple objects associated with a particular cell of the directory matrix. (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56)

As per claim 12, Takai and Roger teach a machine-readable medium as described in claim 11. Takai further teaches the management program further comprising:

A process for creating a project comprising one or multiple cells of the directory matrix;
(see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50) and

A process for displaying the objects linked to the one or multiple cells of the projects.
(see Takai, column 8, lines 30-50)

As per claim 13, Takai teaches a machines-readable medium having a program of instruction for directing a machine to execute a directory management program, the management program comprising:

Processes for setting the value of a first management parameter (see Takai column 11, lines 35-60; The days of the week is a first parameter) and the value of a second management parameter for specific object (see Takai column 11, lines 35-60; The relative importance is a second parameter); and

Art Unit: 2174

A process for linking the object to a particular cell of directory matrix defined by the first and second management parameters based on the first and second management parameters values of the object. (see Takai, column 5, lines 28-56)

However, Takai fails to teach a directory manager.

Roger teaches a directory manager. (see Roger, column 9, lines 25-62;)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Roger's teaching with method of Takai in order to provide users with a hierarchical view of the database.

As per claims 14 and 15, they are of the same scope as claim 1. Supra.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takai US Patent 5,874,965 in view of Rogers US Patent 6,133,914 further in view of Kannenberg US Patent 2003/0172367

As per claim 5, Takai and Roger teach the method of claim 2. They fail to teach the object display program further comprising:

a process for receiving a command to change the display order of multiple objects associated with a particular cell of the directory matrix; and

a process for moving and displaying the objects in the axial directory of the directory management parameter based on the received change-display-order command.

Kannenberg teaches a process for receiving a command to change the display order of multiple objects associated with a particular cell of the directory matrix; (see Kannenberg paragraph 0177) and

a process for moving and displaying the objects in the axial directory of the directory management parameter based on the received change-display-order command. (see Kannenberg paragraph 0177)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kannenberg's teaching with method of Takai and Roger in order to provide users with a hierarchical view of the database.

Conclusion

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to a project timeline interface:

Barnett US Patent 6,369,840: discloses a multi-layered online calendaring and purchasing.

O'Cull US Publication 2006/0200372: discloses a method and system for generating a timeline associated with a project schedule.

Kloss US Publication 2005/0055625: discloses a timeline publishing system.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peng Ke whose telephone number is (571) 272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Peng Ke

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100